

Race Gain In Jobs Largest In 85 Years

By Associated Negro Press

ST. LOUIS — Negro workers gained more industrial jobs during the last war than in the preceding 85 years, Dr. Robert C. Weaver, director of the American Council on Race Relations, Chicago, told representatives of civic organizations attending the Community Race Relations Institute of Greater St. Louis at Metropolitan YWCA present day trade union consciousness on this vital problem.

Dr. Weaver reviewed the status of Negro industrial workers between World War I and World War II. Most of the gains made by them along the lines of occupational diversification occurred after 1942, he said. They were on the sidelines of American industrial life, where they had been since the first World War, when the defense program started, he declared. The war caused some breakdown in color caste, he continued, and brought about vocational training of Negroes in many sections of the country.

"Despite these gains, Negroes are still concentrated in heavy industry and unskilled jobs," Dr. Weaver asserted.

"The economic fate of the Negro has never been and will never be dissociated from that of all the labor of the nation. As with all workers, the volume of total employment will not solve all these and associated problems of inter-group relations.

WARTIME FEPC

"During the war we established the FEPC to encourage fair as well as full employment. This agency has become a symbol to darker Americans. It is needed now as part of a two-pronged program for economic equality and as an important psychological factor symbolizing the Government's concern about making all of its people belong in our democracy."

Representatives of 34 social, civic, labor and religious organizations heard that Dr. A. N. Vaughn, physician and chairman of the group discussing health, report that the 900 hospital beds available to Negroes in the city below requirement. Herbert M. Ramel, vice president of Ramsey Accessory Manufacturing Corp., also reported that "colored leaders are not satisfied simply with employment of some colored people.

They, essentially, want an end to segregation in all phases; complete economic equality in their goal."

A Weapon For Unity

By CLAUDIA JONES

THERE have been many contributions to Negro white unity issued in the form of pamphlets by trade unions. But a unique brochure, entitled "The Negro People: Their Struggles and Achievements" represents an excellent example of present day trade union consciousness on this vital problem.

It is issued by the Joint Fur Board of Dressers and Dyers Union, CIO—between World War I and World War II. Most of the gains made by them along the lines of occupational diversification occurred after 1942, he said. They were on the sidelines of American industrial life, where they had been since the first World War, when the defense program started, he declared. The war caused some breakdown in color caste, he continued, and brought about vocational training of Negroes in many sections of the country.

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The Negro veteran's problems are vividly portrayed by Henry Winston, leading Communist and veteran who urges the labor movement to "rededicate itself" in the fight for full equality, in the spirit and temper of the Negro veteran.

Labor's contribution to the solidarity of Negro-white workers as evidenced in the recent wage struggles is appraised. Unity of the American with the colonial peoples is discussed by Alphaeus Hunton.

Likewise rewarding are the provocative articles by Dean Dixon and Fredi Washington. Both in music and in film, they inveigh against stereotyping the Negro citizen.



Two of America's most popular artists, Pianist Nat "King" Cole, left, and Crooner Perry Como, pause from their radio chores to scan a set of layout sheets from the forthcoming yearbook, "Progress, a Pictorial Record of Negro Achievement in California," currently being compiled by the Pacific Press Syndicate. Explaining the work is Chester Dudley, right, PPS field representative and associate director of the publication.—Pacific Press Syndicate Photo.

Work Hard and Admonishes Successful Negro

Damon Ireland Thomas, 65-year-old negro, of 323 Ashley avenue, has the Lincoln is the only negro theater, 601 King street, his annual income runs well into five figures, and "But as soon as the people found is one of the largest in the city that I wanted to operate a decent His arrangement with the Bijou place, everybody helped me," in Amusement company, Nashville, including law enforcement officers Tenn. owners of the theater, calls and other public agencies. In adfor payment of a salary and half of the profits realized by the theater. Thomas is a "home-town boost-the city for white people, made a ter. It reads: "A Good Theater in complimentary reference to him at

the recent convention of the Theater Owners association of North and South Carolina.

As a rule, the same type of films presented in other theaters are shown at the Lincoln. The few films starring all-negro casts are not enough to supply the demand at the Lincoln, and often new Hollywood films are shown there before they reach other theaters in the city.

Before they are shown at the Lincoln, the films are "edited" to insure that they contain nothing which would agitate racial differences.

Questioned on "race relations" in Charleston, Thomas said "Charleston is the best place in the country insofar as that's concerned."

But oddly enough, some resentment was expressed by negroes when Thomas donated a lot to the city some time ago for the construction of a fire station in Congling street—to be used for the protection of a negro community against fire.

Horizons Unlimited Times-Dispatch

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

After reading discussions as to discrimination against and separation of Negro people, I wish to say that some of the expressions have infuriated me, especially the letter of L. K. Beddow, titled "Copying the White Man," in the VOP. Richmond, Va.

What has the white man got to "put down" that the Negro man can successfully "pick up"?

Negroes have come a long way. For many years they picked the cotton, did the housework, carried on strong shoulders the workday burden. Beyond these limited opportunities there are now new horizons.

We are not ashamed of working with our hands, or of an honest day's work. But a progressing world offers many of us a chance to prove ourselves in varied jobs and occupations.

The steady progress of Negro citizens during the three-quarters of a century since their emancipation emphasizes what can be accomplished by free men in a free country.

Moreover, their achievements in art, letters, sciences, and public service during 75 years should give all Americans determination to maintain our priceless heritage of free institutions.

May I express confidently hope that a race which has achieved so much in so few years may go forward to even nobler things in generations ahead?

What Negroes have today is that which was taken from their forefathers years ago.

MRS. EDNA BROWN,
Richmond.

Renaissance Called Third.

Dorothy Maynor, Todd Duncan, Langston Hughes, Paul Robeson and numerous others, many new-comers rapidly are earning a wide acceptance for earnest, worthwhile contributions to modern American culture. Among them are:

Ann Petry and Chester Himes in fiction; Gwendolyn Brooks in poetry; Ella Two earlier ones came after free-dom from slavery, and after World War I. The first American Negro novel, "The first American Negro novel, music; Pearl Primus in the dance; list able to earn a living out of

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Critics Believe Negro Successes Point to Full-Fledged Renaissance

By W. G. ROGERS, Jr., 11-15-46

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fiction was William Wells Brown, emergence of the Negro seems who published a book just 99 years ago. In the last century important issues. The Negroes there were such noted singers have developed in answer to the as Elizabeth T. Greenfield and Blindtom. Later came poet Paul Lawrence Dunbar and novelist Charles W. Chestnutt.

The second renaissance, in the 1920's, is remembered best, perhaps, for "The Fire In the Flint," by Walter White, N.A.A.C.P. executive, who believes it was the first novel about the South written regardless of the possibility of offending white Southerners.

War Showed Need.

The present sudden prominence of Negroes in the creative arts, Moon believes, follows upon a failure by white democratic America which, made painfully aware during the war of what it needed from Negroes and reminded uncomfortably of a debt to them, now is trying to even up accounts.

The Negroes themselves have various explanations: The war, more money, a new freedom within American communities and increased receptivity by the whites. Here is what they say:

Miss Davis: "One reason why the Negro artist has produced more and better work is that in recent years he has had more money. More Negroes attended more concerts by Negroes, read more books by Negroes, and that's an important kind of encouragement."

Poor Living Blamed.

Dixon: "The creative urge was always there, but it was hampered by a lack of education, and the lassitude due to poor food and living."

Josh White: "It's because of the war, at least in my case. When the orchestras and bands were called to play for army camps, the public wanted something to take their place, and it took the songs which I'd been writing for years, but which it hadn't listened to before. . . . I think the gains made in the last five or six years will not be lost."

Duncan: "America today is more interested in all the arts than she used to be. . . . a much bigger percentage of Negroes is going to college than ever before, and so their influence is felt in the arts. . . . The parents got a start in World War I, and it is their children who are making a name for themselves, perhaps because of the improved financial foundation. Also, more whites are receptive to Negro culture."

Whites More Mature.

Walter White: "Part of it is the growing maturity of white America itself. . . . critics now make no concessions on grounds of color to artists like (Roland) Hayes, Anderson, Robeson." (White also notes various claims that America's principal cultural contributions to the world have originated in the Negroes' jazz, dance, spirituals and folklore.)

Miss Maynor: "The sudden

5. Embattled Negro People Look Ahead

By Max Gordon

The Worker

It may have escaped you, but one of the big stories of 1946 is the progress made by the Negro people of America in their battle for equality and emancipation.

The progress was made primarily where it counts most—in the South. But it was not confined to the South. It includes the greater organization and militancy by the Negro people themselves, with some top-notch victories chalked up. And it includes also greater solidarity with white progressives, especially in the North.

There is the other side of the picture, of course—the brutal reaction's path, the greater joblessness and downgrading of Negro workers that followed the war's end, the disgraceful discrimination in the armed forces. But less known is the way the Negro people and their white allies have been rising to the fight against this reaction.

Let's start with the political end. In the elections in November, 200,000 of the million or so voters in Georgia, home state of the late Gene Talmadge, were Negroes, the first such outpouring of Negro voters since Reconstruction. In Mississippi and Arkansas and South Carolina, Negro voters came out—in some places for the first time. True, the voting was scattered, but the people braved the threats of the Bilbos, appeared at the polls and in some cases broke through.

Nationally, the two progressive Negro congressmen—Adam Powell of New York and William Dawson of Chicago—were reelected. More than that, the Negro people made history in the election of four state legislators in Missouri, the first—with a single exception—in that state since Reconstruction Days. In New York, four state legislators were elected, too, more than ever before in the state's political history. Massachusetts elected its first Negro state legislator. In other states, the Negro people retained the gains made in recent years.

Then there was the historic participation of Walter White, head of the National Association

for the Advancement of Colored People, in the Chicago Conference of Progressives and in continuing meetings of that conference. The NAACP now numbers half a million members and is active throughout the nation.

Finally, perhaps more than any single group, the Negro people have become restive at the two party system. They mistrust the Republicans, with reason, and picture, of course—the brutal

lynchings, the growth of Jim-crow and intolerance that marks reaction's path, the greater joblessness and downgrading of Negro workers that followed the war's end, the disgraceful discrimination in the armed forces. But less known is the way the Negro people and their white allies have been rising to the fight against this reaction.

Immense as FDR's role had been in swinging the American people as a whole to support the Democrats, it was even greater among the Negro people. Similarly, his death created more political ferment among the Negro people. And the sign of that was won acquittal for 24 of 25 Negroes whom the white supremacists had marked for legal lynching. That fight is not yet over. One man remains in jail. But the victory is nation-shaking nevertheless.

There is also the immense courage of a group of Negroes who dared KKK terror to testify against Sen. Bilbo in Mississippi.

But we're not through. For in the South, there took place the Youth Legislature of the Southern Negro Youth Conference at Columbia, S. C., the youth conference of the NAACP at New Orleans, the Southern Conference for Human Welfare sessions, also at New Orleans. All were unprecedented events uniting Negroes and whites in the heart of the South; all advanced militant fighting programs for equality in unison with white labor.

The Negro people rose to meet the increasing demand for a third party in the Negro press and by Negro speakers.

Industrially, the big news was the Southern organizing drive of both CIO and AFL. It is enough only to mention the great strikes in furniture, tobacco, and other industries, in which Negro and white fought side by side for weeks and months against every attempt of the white bosses to split them—and were successful in jobs in the shops and for higher wages and better working conditions together with all labor, for

establishing their unions and winning contracts. 12-29-46

It must be said, though, that the organized labor movement has not been equally on the ball in battling against job discrimination in the shops.

In the fight against the terror of the Ku Kluxers and their kind, there comes to mind the history-making trial of Columbia, Tenn., in which two Negro attorneys and one white, backed by a national indignation of wide proportions, heights of national consciousness as they followed closely and backed the struggle of the peoples of Africa and India against Anglo-American imperialism in the Assembly of the United Nations. The National Negro Congress petition for a UN investigation of discrimination in America has gained almost universal support among the Negroes.

Always sensitive to the lash of imperialism and opposed to the wars that arise out of it, Negroes played a leading part in the fight for peace.

Among Negro organizations, the NAACP has grown greatly in size, stature and militancy. So, too, has the National Negro Congress. Both emphasize the greater unity and organization of the Negro people, and both emphasize the need for unity with white labor and other progressive groups.

For the year that is upon us, the battles that face the Negro people will take place in Congress, in various state legislatures, on the industrial field.

They include the struggle for national FEPC and similar state bills, for an end to polltax laws and expansion of the Negro electorate in the South, for an end to lynching through passage of anti-lynch legislation and real progress against the semi-feudal land system in the South.

They include, too, the battle for wages and better working conditions together with all labor, for an end to discrimination in housing and for higher an end to discrimination in housing.

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The honor of being the "first Negro citizen of Portland" is conferred each year by the Progressive Democratic Club upon the Negro citizen who is judged to have made the greatest contribution in civic and community services during the year. Winners for 1945 and 1946 were Clifford Walker and Dr. DeNorval Unthank, respectively.

Miss Reynolds, elected from a field of 16 candidates, has been employed by the Blessed Martin League, a Catholic organization, for more than three years to promote its religious, charitable, educational and community service programs among local Negroes. She has promoted each summer a religious vacation session, which last year drew more than 40 Negro children.

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Social Worker
"First Citizen"
Of Portland"

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PARKER HIGH SCHOOL—The band is shown in front of the modern high school named for Dr. A. H. Parker, a leading Negro educator. Shown, at left and right, are two views of the thriving Negro business district which reaches from 16th to 18th Streets on North Fourth Avenue in downtown Birmingham.

Negroes Grow With City

BY LEE McBRIDE WHITE, JR.

From the first Monday in May, 1873, when Col. James B. Powell bestrode a calico pony at the Alabama Great Southern depot and harangued for the vote of incoming trainloads of Negroes—and thereby forced the election of Birmingham as Jefferson County seat—the life of the city has been shared and influenced by the Negro race.

The Negro's rise from free but unskilled labor in field and ditch to his present level of civic consciousness and professional competence in varied activities coincides almost exactly with the history of the city from post-bellum infancy to full-grown stature.

During the kaleidoscopic procession of events in the past 75 years—years in which industrial giants forged the pattern of the city and its towers of steel—the Negro race has made constantly-increasing strides toward self-sufficiency in health, agriculture, art, housing, recreation, industry and education.

While the Negro's "take" in the heavy industrial payrolls has always been large, Negro leaders of today point out the rising number of professions in which the race is gradually making its mark. Successful professional men look gratefully back upon the splendid educational facilities provided by the Birmingham school system. But pride in achievements in such skilled crafts as carpentry, brick-masonry, plumbing, steam-fitting, printing and electrical work has been demonstrated in a local exhibit which attracted national newspaper interest.

UNDER DR. A. H. PARKER, the Old Industrial High School (now Parker High) was the largest single Negro school in the world, establishing worthy records in scholastics, recreation and safety. The Parker High School Chorus, noted for its rendition of Negro spirituals, has been called "one of the most glorious choirs ever heard in the new world." Coast-to-coast broadcasts have carried the Birmingham singers' voices throughout the nation.

Stories in nationally-circulated magazines and popular tunes such as "Tuxedo Junction" have frequently given an inaccurate picture of the business and cultural life of the race in Birmingham. Actually, Negroes here have sought economic and social stability in a business-like manner

Dominated by the solid, seven-story Negro Masonic Temple which was built in 1923, the traditional Negro business district which is centered at Fourth Avenue, North, and 17th Street, is a thriving metropolis in itself. Wilbur H. Hollins, president, Birmingham Negro Business League, has estimated that at least 1,000 business concerns are owned and operated by Negroes in the metropolitan area. Seven large periodicals are published by the Negro press; among which the editorial work of Emory O. Jackson, of The Birmingham World, has been outstanding.

Prominent among Negro pioneers in the district was Carrie Tuggle, frequently called the "Booker T. Washington of Negro Women," who founded the Tuggle Institute, a social service project.

IN RECENT YEARS, the work of the Negro artist, Eugene Johnson, has won international recognition, and Felix Gaines has further established the artistic gift of his race. Margaret Walker won the 1942 Yale Series of Younger Poets competition at 27, and became the first Negro poet to be published by the Yale University Press.

Miles College, a liberal arts institution directed by Dr. W. A. Bell, includes nearly 500 students on its rolls.

At Smithfield and Southtown, the two Federal Housing Projects in Birmingham set aside for Negro tenants, an integrated and helpful social life has been developed, and the care and maintenance of the two projects has won praise from supervisors.

THE CONTRIBUTION of the race to the successful prosecution of World War I and World War II—in manpower, production and service—has been recognized by the highest civic authorities.

The 1940 federal census showed a Negro population of 108,450 within the city limits of Birmingham. Looking to the future, the Negro is grateful for the benefits of education and prosperity which have brought him so far along the road from bondage to his present status of working, sharing citizen, and is hopeful for the economic and social stability which must come out of his own sweat and toil.

NEW FIGURES EMERGING

Full-Fledged 'Renaissance' Under Way for Negroes

Atlanta, Ga.

Nov. 18-27-46

By W. G. ROGERS

Associated Press

NEW YORK, Oct. 26—(AP)—The present sudden prominence of Negroes in the creative arts, Critics, publishers and others who have noted the suddenly increased activity of Negroes and their notable new individual successes in the dance, music, literature and art, believe that a full-fledged Negro "renaissance" is now under way.

Besides the already familiar names of Marian Anderson, Dorothy Maynor, Todd Duncan, Langston Hughes, Paul Robeson and numerous others, many newcomers rapidly are earning American culture.

Among them are:

Ann Petry and Chester Himes in fiction; Gwendolyn Brooks and Owen Dodson in poetry; Ellabelle Davis, Camilla Williams, Carol Brice, Philippa Schuyler, Josh White and Dean Dixon in music; Pearl Primus in the dance; Romare Bearden in art.

Bucklin Moon, Doubleday editor and author of the forthcoming "The High Cost of Prejudice," and Arthur B. Spingarn, President of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, both point out that this is not the first Negro renaissance. Two earlier ones came after freedom from slavery, and after World War I.

The first American Negro novelist able to earn a living out of fiction was William Wells Brown, who published a book just 99 years ago. In the last century there were such noted singers as Elizabeth T. Greenfield and Blind Tom. Later came Poet Paul Lawrence Dunbar and Novelist Charles W. Chestnutt.

The second renaissance, in the 1920's, is remembered best, perhaps, for "The Fire in the Flint," achieved by Walter White, NAACP executive, who believes it was the first novel about the South written regardless of the possibility of offending white Southerners.

The Negroes themselves have various explanations. The war, more money, a new freedom within American communities and increased receptivity by the whites. The Negroes themselves have various explanations. The war, more money, a new freedom within American communities and increased receptivity by the whites.

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PROGRESS OF RACES

Mr. The Advertiser: Advertiser

Mr. Rogers on the superiority of the colored races raises a very interesting point. It seems to me this much discussed question might be readily decided by accomplishments and the progress made the races during their existence on the earth.

In the beginning they all started from the same primitive condition—the same opportunities. The early civilizations and cultures of the Orient have long since crumbled and they have become weak, decadent countries for many centuries. Meantime the white race has forged consistently ahead—leaving all other races far behind. Almost all of the great gifts in music, arts, science, discoveries, inventions, literature, have been made by the white man. He has brought about an easy, pleasant way of life through his ingenuity and inventions, and the only colored races who have made any progress in centuries are those who have been dominated or contacted and influenced by the white race.

Japan, it is true, has made progress, but that is because of her open imitation of the white man's way of life. The Negro's rise from barbarism has been brought about entirely by the white man—(sinful though the method may have been). He has the white man to thank for Christianity, education, and civilization. From my observation, also—practically—if not every Negro who has achieved distinction has had white blood. This is usually obvious from his appearance—or admitted by him (as in the case of Booker T. Washington, who was very Negro in appearance).

Encouraging Progress
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As of Sept. 27, 1946, there were 19,662 \$3,324,400, or 43.7 per cent, has been appropriated for Negroes.

evidence of progress toward the provision of equal opportunities.

Figures presented by Mr. Green show a widespread health service for Negro citizens.

The Booker T. Washington and Sloss-Sheffield Libraries are being visited by thousands of readers. Together they include about 21,000 volumes.

There are two community centers for Negroes, four Summer playgrounds and one swimming pool.

In the work of the Department of Public Welfare, the assistance being given to the aged, the blind, dependent children, the handicapped and for temporary relief is approximately equally divided between white and Negro citizens.

There are 992 units in the two Negro projects of the Housing Authority, with 2,074 units in the three white projects.

Approximately 58 per cent of the alarms responded to by the Birmingham Fire Department come from Negro sections.

Garbage collection is on the same basis.

Walton Lynchings

World Memphis, Tenn.

Top News For '46

Fri. 1-3-47

BY THE S. N. S.

1. THE LYNCHING OF FOUR NEGROES on a lonely road in Walton County, Georgia, July 25, 1946, was top news event of the year. The occurrence and the investigation which followed kept Monroe a news nerve center for the remainder of the year. Nothing came from the federal grand jury hearing a few weeks ago, although officials say they are continuing to probe the tight-lipped silence in the Oconee river section. There were several other lynchings during the year. A world war for democracy had hardly stopped on far-flung battlefronts when the South renewed an old custom in the old way.

2. The UPSURGE of the Ku Klux Klan, old hate organization which quieted down during World War II, and the Columbians, Inc., a new unit designed after the Nazis, brought numerous headlines during 1946. At least ten states took action to revoke charters of the Klan. Georgia was among the first states to move against the KKK which has quickly to abolish the charter of the Columbians granted in a Fulton (Atlanta) Superior Court. Both hate orders were accused of violence.

3. The Columbia, Tenn., riots of February, 1946 and the trials at Lawrenceburg and Columbia brought headlines and chills to Americans of color. Twenty-three persons were acquitted in the first trial and two in the last trial, leaving only one person convicted.

4. The bishopric wrangle and the

the case and Negro voting resulted generally for the first time in forty years. *Fri. 1-3-47*

8. The PURGE of Negro voters in Georgia and a hot political campaign from which race-baiting Eugene Talmadge emerged victor kept the press wires hot. Talmadge's death in December, less than a month before his inauguration as governor and a new term during which he promised to take away the Negroes' vote in the primary and put the group back in its post-war place, brought more headlines and top news.

9. In a momentous decision, the U. S. Supreme Court revoked Jim Crow Bus Laws in operation in the South. A general survey shows that the ruling has not be implemented.

10. Election of 33 Negro state-house representatives in the North East and West, together with the re-election of two representatives to the national Congress furnished another top news spot.

Other top news included the general nationwide strikes; the granting of equal rights to Negro workers by the boilmakers union; admission of ten Negroes to the American Surgeons College; the blinding by a South Carolina officer of Isaac Woodard, World War II victim and the subsequent acquittal of the officer in a federal court; award of \$1,000 annual "Good Neighbor Award" to Mrs. Sarah Murphy, of Rockmart, Ga.; the Rockdale County peonage case; the Atlanta transit strike; the refusal by the Supreme Court to review the Georgia County unit test case; allocation of \$3,531,150 to Negro schools in a Fulton-Atlanta bond issue; election of Dr. Charles S. Johnson as first Negro president of Fisk University.

subsequent expulsion of two bishops of the AME Church and the disciplining of another at a Little Rock, Ark., special conference covered top space in the news of the Negro press for '46. Suits in the church struggles continued as Bishop Sims refused to abide by the ruling of the conference. A laymen's group of the AME First District several weeks ago set up an independent church.

5. Mrs. Emma Clarissa Clement 71, of Louisville, Ky., wife of a deceased AME Zion bishop, mother of seven successful children and an outstanding civic and social worker was selected as the American Mother of 1946 and honored on Mother's Day. It was the first time a Negro mother had been so honored, and set up as the example for the day. Mrs. Clement has been widely honored ever since.

6. Another first for American Negroes was the unveiling of a bust of Booker T. Washington in the Hall of Fame. The founder of Tuskegee Institute and leader in American conception of industrial education was further honored with the placing of his engraving on half-dollar coins, an honor usually reserved for the images of rulers.

Memphis, Tenn.
As Negroes continued their struggles for the ballot, the U. S. Fifth District Court of Appeals at New Orleans affirmed the decision of Judge T. Hoyt Davis of the Middle Georgia District Court that a Negro, the Rev. Primus E. King, of Columbus, was eligible to vote in the Democratic primary. The U. S. Supreme Court refused to review